

offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

↑**Gathering Prayer** *enfleshed, adapted* David Weinreb

One: Behold, the glistening sign of hope. A distant but shining star is cupped by the darkness that gently holds the future. The Holy has painted possibility across the night sky. Come, seekers. The journey is before us. A new day is born.

Many: Holy Guide, the entire cosmos is a messenger of your love. You write it in the stars. You plant it in the soil. You nurture it in the life of all creatures. May we be open to perceiving that we might know and feel your presence with us. Amen.

Musical Offering “We Three Kings” John Henry Hopkins Jr.

Vince Waldron, soloist

Chorus:

O Star of Wonder, Star of Night, Star with Royal Beauty Bright
Westward Leading Still Proceeding, Guide Us to Thy Perfect Light

↑**Passing the Peace** David Weinreb

One: We are invited to feast at the table of God’s Shalom, to seek the well-being and the wholeness of all creation. Peace for our bodies Peace for our souls,

All: Peace in our relationships. Peace in our world.

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us share the sign of peace with one another.

We Share the Word

Time with our Young People and Young at Heart Rev. Ashley

All are invited to come forward and sit in the front if they feel led. Afterwards, ages

K-5th grade are invited to Godly Play next door, and will return for communion.

Solo “A Cradle in the Shadow of a Cross” Dorothy R. Smith

Greg Carson, soloist

Reading John 1: 1-14a, *The Message translation* David Weinreb

See insert

Reflection

Rev. Ashley

We Pray and We Give

↑**Hymn**

#165

Love Came Down at Christmas

Sharing Our Joys, Concerns and Discoveries

Rev. Ashley

It is our practice to share our Gratitude and Joy, Concerns and Discoveries

Our Common Prayer (*unison, please use the words that are most meaningful for you*)

Our Mother, who is in heaven and within us, we call upon your names. Your wisdom come. Your will be done, in all the spaces in which You dwell. Give us each day sustenance and perseverance. Remind us of our limits as we give grace to the limits of others. Separate us from the temptation of empire, but deliver us into community. For you are the dwelling place within us, the empowerment around us, and the celebration among us, now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

David Weinreb

Offertory

“Joy to the World”

Joe Lawrence

Prayer of Dedication (unison) *enfleshed, adapted*

David Weinreb

Creator, may the singing-forth of all beings be honored with our offerings this morning. Tend with us gardens of compassion and joy. Practice with us putting flesh on the World to Come, everenfolding, here and now. Amen.

We Break Bread Together

↑**Communion Song**

Words by Jim Burklo

Deeper Love

*For deeper love we share the bread, I won't be full till all are fed
Till every soul has home and bed, the rest of us can't move ahead
For deeper love we share the wine, I cannot taste the love divine
Till every soul has walked the line, and you've had yours as I've had mine
We follow where the Christ has led, to table that for all is spread
And no one's sitting at the head, but deeper love in wine and bread*

Invitation to the Table

Rev. Ashley

This is an open table. No matter where you are on Life's Journey, you are welcome! We use grape juice for communion, and have a gluten free option. After the elements are blessed, you are invited to come forward. If you would like to receive communion in your seat, we are happy to bring it to you.

Remembering the Story Sharing the Elements, and Receiving our Star Words

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy God who lights our way, we thank you for this moment of respite along the journey, a moment to be filled with good things, to be reminded of our belovedness and sent out to be your hands and feet in the world. Though we'd often prefer a straightforward, step-by-step plan for our lives, you've instead given us an invitation to wander, to seek, to take a different road, to be guided by a star. May these star words be a map to you, guiding us to look under every rock and around every corner, seeking you out everywhere, because everywhere is exactly where you are. And next year, when the road leads back to this very place, may we find that you were with us every step of the way. With hope we pray, amen.

We Are Sent

↑Sending Hymn	#144 vs. 1 & 3	Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
↑Closing Blessing		Rev. Ashley
Postlude		Joe Lawrence

All Members, Ministers
 Rev. Ashley Hiestand, Pastor
 Joe Lawrence, Music Director
 Clay Widdifield, Moderator
 Vincent Lopez, Technical Director

Mount Hollywood United Church of Christ * 1733 N. New Hampshire Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90027
 323-300-4066 * www.mounthollywood.org

↑Please stand in mind, body, or spirit as you feel comfortable.



MOUNT HOLLYWOOD

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epiphany Sunday

January 5th, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.

We Gather in Community

Welcoming Music	Joe Lawrence
Welcome & Announcements	Rev. Ashley
Ringing of the Bell	Young Person
Centering and Breath Prayer	Rev. Ashley
Inhale: We recall the blessings of last year Exhale: May we learn and grow well Inhale: We hold love close as we look ahead Exhale: God is with us still	
Responsive Scripture Reading	of Matthew 2 David Weinreb
On: In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, All: "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east, and have come to pay him homage." One: When King Herod heard this, he was frightened... and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea... Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. All: On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they	

John 1: 1-14a, *The Message translation*

The Word was first,
the Word present to God,
God present to the Word.
The Word was God,
in readiness for God from day one.
Everything was created through God;
nothing—not one thing!—
came into being without God.
What came into existence was Life,
and the Life was Light to live by.
The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness;
the darkness couldn't put it out.
There once was a man, his name John, sent by God to point out the way to the
Life-Light. He came to show everyone where to look, who to believe in. John was not
himself the Light; he was there to show the way to the Light.
The Life-Light was the real thing:
Every person entering Life
he brings into Light.
He was in the world,
the world was there through him,
and yet the world didn't even notice.
He came to his own people,
but they didn't want him.
But whoever did want him,
who believed he was who he claimed
and would do what he said,
He made to be their true selves,
their child-of-God selves.
These are the God-begotten,
not blood-begotten,
not flesh-begotten,
not sex-begotten.
The Word became flesh and blood,
and moved into the neighborhood.

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